(b) why the pay of watchmen and employees in the godowns has not yet been fixed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) There are at present 61 watchmen for guarding the godowns taken over for storage of rice in Kozhikode. The pay and allowances of 47 watchmen up to the 30th June 1954 was paid on the 13th July 1954 and of the remaining 14 on the 7th August 1954.

" (b) The pay of all the employees in the godowns including watchmen has already been fixed. There was some delay in the fixation of the pay of the watchmen as they were to be paid at market rates, which had to be ascertained from the Tahsildars in the stations in which they were employed."

Prescribing language tests as a qualification for appointment as Tahsildars.

* 171 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Tahsildars have been appointed in 1954 in the Malabar district who have not passed Malayalam test;

(b) if so, how many; and

(c) the reasons for the appointments?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) to (c) No language test is prescribed under the rules as a qualification for appointment as Tahsildars. The particulars required by the Member are not, therefore, furnished."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that they have got to handle their business in Malayalam, is not conversance with or a knowledge of Malayalam a *sine qua non* for their functioning usefully? Will the Government, therefore, try to appoint, as far as possible, only those persons as Tahsildars in Malabar who are familiar with that language, which is the language of the people?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I agree with the hon. Member."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know whether there are any Malayalee Tahsildars in Tamil areas, and if so, whether they are not able to carry on the administration in Tamil and English, without any knowledge of the Tamil language?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There is not much difference between Malayalam and Tamil. So, they are able to carry on the administration." (Laughter.)